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WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

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Stand Down 2008. Veterans line up for lunch during Stand Down, a community event designed to provide veterans in need with information on counseling, housing, medical and dental care, employment and job training, veteran benefits, legal issues and more. Nearly 200 veterans attended this year's Stand Down held on Camp Carroll in August. Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

Alaska Territorial Guard. (Left photo) Sigurd Edwards receives the Warriors Medal of Valor during a ceremony honoring ATG members in Yakutat.

Photo: Specialist Margaret Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs



(Right photos from top) Carl Smith, one of 130 Hooper Bay residents who served in the Alaska Territorial Guard, displays his awards and discharge paperwork. James Henry, receives ATG paperwork in Eek. Fritz Beebe, left, Adam Petluska Sr., center, and James Henry smile at the crowd after receiving their official discharge paperwork at a ceremony in Eek, where 43 residents served in the ATG.

Photos: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

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veterans and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to:

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For the People

Governor Sarah Palin
Commander in Chief



Busy Months Lead to Numerous Accomplishments

I am proud of the work the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has accomplished during these last few months. The Alaska Air National Guardsmen who deployed to the Gulf Coast region to render assistance to our fellow Americans during the trying hurricane season did an outstanding job. You overcame difficult flying conditions to save 16 people in just 16 days.

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact, through which you deployed, is in place so that states can directly request the assistance of other states in times of need. I am pleased that the states of Louisiana and Texas recognized the Alaska Air National Guard's unparalleled experience and capability, and specifically asked me to send our very best.

Closer to home, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs also helped fellow Alaskans overcome the perils of severe flooding that resulted from a disastrous Interior storm system. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management set up Disaster Assistance Centers to help flood victims apply for

aid and seek shelter. I signed a Declaration of Disaster Emergency to help bring in additional state assistance.

All the while, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs continues to revere and recognize those who have served our country. To date, we have recognized approximately 600 Alaska Territorial Guard members with formal Department of Defense discharge certificates.

As you know, Alaska Territorial Guard members were never formally recognized for their service during World War II, and in the past couple of years, we have made it a priority to get these admirable Soldiers the recognition and benefits they earned. We are traveling all across the state, going from village to village, to ensure that these veterans are shown the gratitude they deserve.

Now as we approach Veterans Day this year, let us take time to thank the heroes of our past and honor the troops fighting for our freedoms today. ■



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My Turn

Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



Honoring our Past, Transforming our Future

I hope you'll take notice of the brave men shown on the cover of this issue. These faces are just some of the many courageous heroes that defended Alaska and the United States during World War II. They stood on our shores, protected our borders and fought for our country.

I am pleased to report that more than 600 official U.S. Army discharge certificates have been delivered to former Alaska Territorial Guard members or their families. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has been working hard to ensure that these Soldiers are properly recognized for their unwavering courage that went unrecognized during their time of service.

In support of the War on Terrorism, we deployed another contingent of Alaska Army National Guard members to Afghanistan to embed with the Afghan National Army. This is the second time we

have undertaken this significant mission to help the people of Afghanistan become self-sustainable and build a strong government, and we are perfect for the job.

The Alaska National Guard brings a wealth of civilian expertise and military discipline to the mission. We have engineers, teachers and police officers among our ranks, and we can directly share these civilian skills with those in a country struggling to regain its identity and civility.

We also recently sent the best-of-the-best down to the Gulf Coast region to help with search-and-rescue efforts in the aftermath of hurricanes Gustav, Hannah and Ike. The Alaska Air National Guard members who deployed down South represented our state with the utmost professionalism and compassion for those in need.

They delivered a highly proficient

mission effectiveness that resulted in lives saved during a disastrous time. Sixteen people and two prized family dogs are safe today because of their efforts. We are extremely proud of their mission success.

This fall, I was humbled to be part of a very historic moment in the history of the Alaska National Guard. Governor Sarah Palin bestowed the honor and entrusted me to wear the rank of Lieutenant General so that I may be of greater service to my fellow Alaskans. This three-star promotion puts me on equal footing with the active duty components in Alaska and allows me to lead a state response with the appropriate authority during a state emergency.

I also look forward to leading the Department of Military & Veteran Affairs into another season of distinguished accomplishments and successful deployments. ■

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Dispatches from the Front...

Stories by Specialist Margaret J. Moonin,
DMVA Public Affairs

210th, 212th Rescue Stranded Dutch Climbers

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Air National Guard's 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons rescued two Dutch climbers off a sheer cliff on the back side of Eklutna Lake in early September.

The 11th Rescue Coordination Center received the call to assist Alaska State Troopers with the rescue and responded with an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter from the 210th Rescue Squadron with pararescuemen from the 212th Rescue Squadron on board.

Alaska State Trooper's initial attempts to rescue the climbers were hampered due to strong winds and a lack of hoist equipment.

The HH-60 Pave Hawk arrived on scene and pararescuemen hoisted the two climbers onto the Pave Hawk, then transported them to the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport where they were released to Alaska State Troopers.

"Every year we see a rise in stranded, lost and injured Alaskans and visitors in remote areas of the state during the months of August and September," said Master Sergeant Sal Provenzano, RCC noncommissioned officer in charge. "Fortunately these climbers were well prepared and planned ahead by bringing a satellite phone, which made it easier to communicate their conditions and get an exact location. Knowing your element and being properly prepared can be a defining factor in how quickly and effectively we can rescue someone."

Two saves were awarded to the 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons for this mission. ■



Road Rescue. An HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter sits on the Dalton Highway about 75 miles north of Fairbanks in mid-August, after responding to an 18-wheeler roll over. The Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons responded, extracted the 60-year-old driver and transported him to the hospital. "In the past we would not have been called out for a mission on a designated road system because the U.S. Army's Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic program would have covered it," said Technical Sergeant Gail Paculba, 11th Rescue Coordination Center search-and-rescue coordinator. "Because the MAST program was cancelled due to recent Fort Wainwright deployments, we are now trying to fill in making these types of missions a normal occurrence for our Guardsmen." The 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons were awarded one save for this mission. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Bill Kupchin, 210th Rescue Squadron

Wasilla Pilot Uses New Distress Beacon to Signal Help

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons quickly found a missing Wasilla man after his plane went down in a spruce bog 57 miles southeast of Galena in late August.

The 11th Rescue Coordination Center's satellite picked up an Emergency Locator Transmitter signal near Galena from a new 406-megahertz distress beacon, which provides accurate registration information, flight plan and pinpoint location of the crash site.

"With the first beacon hit, you get the registration information, which made it possible for us to contact the pilot's son, who informed us he had a satellite phone," said Master Sergeant Sal Provenzano, RCC noncommissioned officer in charge. "He said his father contacted him to say that he was safe but was experiencing severe back pain."

Shortly after this contact, the Federal Aviation Administration called the RCC with a mayday notification received by a commercial airliner flying in the area.

The Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons from Kulis Air National Guard Base responded with an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter, an HC-130 Hercules and pararescuemen to recover the injured man.

"This was one of our easiest missions because there was no searching involved," Provenzano said. "We were able to locate the patient almost immediately and ascertain that his injuries were not life threatening. In being as prepared as this gentleman was, with the new distress beacon and satellite phone, he in effect helped himself to be so quickly recovered."

The 210th, 211th and 212th were awarded one save for this mission. ■

New Bethel Readiness Center

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... A new 30,000-square foot armory is in the works for Bethel that will support the Alaska Army National Guard's aviation, airborne infantry and military police units in the region.

Senator Ted Stevens pushed for \$16 million to help fund the Bethel National Guard Readiness Center as part of the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act

that passed in July.

"The men and women of our military work so hard in service to our great nation, and deserve the necessary training and facilities to do their jobs," Stevens said. "In particular, the National Guard in Bethel has been in need of funds to complete this required construction for some time. I am glad to see this investment being made in Bethel."

The new readiness center will replace the existing armory in Bethel and will serve as a regional training hub.

Construction is slated to begin in 2009 with a completion date of 2011. The facility will be built under the oversight of the State of Alaska's Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the Alaska Army National Guard. ■

Where in the World



Hometown Pride. North Pole Mayor Doug Isaacson, right, and Senior Airman Michael Nash unveil the North Pole city seal on the nose of a KC-135R Stratotanker in June. Photo: Master Sergeant Brian Schlumbohm, 168th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Air Assault. Students in the recent Air Assault Course at Fort Richardson wait to hook up their sling load as a UH-60 Black Hawk from the Alaska Army National Guard approaches. More than 200 Soldiers from across the country participated in the two-week course.

Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



168th Wing Honors Hometowns

By Major Kelly Mellard,
168th Air Refueling Wing

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... The cities of North Pole and Fairbanks are flying high with their city seals officially emblazoned on the nose of two Alaska Air National Guard KC-135R Stratotankers.

The seals represent the hometowns of the men and women of the 168th Air Refueling Wing. The towns are being honored for their support of the Alaska Air National Guard over the years.

"Through our disaster preparedness and emergency response missions, we have a unique and outstanding relationship with our community and its leaders as their 'Hometown Air Force,'" said Colonel Scott Wenke, 168th Air Refueling Wing commander. "It is our honor to carry these official city seals worldwide and be able to share our home towns with others."

Historically, nose art, especially during World War II, has been used to

personalize combat aircraft and boost morale with extravagant creations highlighting unit pride.

"The Spirit of North Pole promotes 'Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men,'" said North Pole Mayor Doug Isaacson. "It is fitting to have this spirit as part of the nose art on an aircraft that promotes the same. As they now take a piece of home with them wherever their mission takes them, so we too will look up into the sky as they fly over, grateful to the guardians of the Last Frontier, knowing that in a tangible way we fly with them." ■



Welcome Home. Colonel Chuck Foster, right, commander of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing, greets wing members returning in July from a deployment to Afghanistan. Descending the ramp from the C-17 are Captain Jeffery Meinel, a helicopter pilot with the wing's 210th Rescue Squadron, and Staff Sergeant Dave Torrance, a flight engineer also with the 210th. Photo: Second Lieutenant John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs.

Soldiers Deploy to Afghanistan

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Fifteen Alaska Army National Guard members deployed to Afghanistan for one year to embed with the Afghan National Army in support of efforts to help bring freedom to the people and rebuild the embattled nation.

"This is the perfect mission for the Alaska National Guard because we bring civilian expertise along with tactical military

Lending Anglers a Hand. Cadets from the Alaska Military Youth Academy help offload salmon caught during the Kenai River Classic in July. The two graduating classes of 2008 performed 18,854 hours of volunteer service to the community at a combined value of \$134,806. Photo: Courtesy of AMYA



Missile Defense up Close. Czech Defense Minister Vlasta Parkanova peers from inside a Silo Interface Vault past an operational ground-based interceptor during her recent tour of the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely. The defense minister and several other high ranking Czech officials visited the remote Alaskan site, which is home to the Alaska Army National Guard's 49th Missile Defense Battalion. Photo: Courtesy of Czech media



Khaan Quest Training. Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers are approached by actors role-playing as hostile civilians while participating in cordon-and-search training in a mock village setting at Five Hills Training Center, Mongolia. The Alaska National Guard participated in Exercise Khaan Quest 2008, a multinational peace-support operations exercise, in September. Read more about Exercise Khaan Quest 2008 on page 16. Photo: Specialist Paizley Ramsey, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



to Afghanistan as an Afghan National Army Embedded Transition Team. The first group deployed in April 2007 for about one year. ■

Air Guard Returns from Afghanistan

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

KULIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Alaska ... More than 50 Alaska Air National Guard members from the 176th Wing returned to Alaska in July after tours of duty in Afghanistan.

The Guard members had been supporting combat search-and-rescue missions in Afghanistan since January as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Airmen represented the 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons, the 176th Maintenance Group and the 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron. Individuals were on rotating deployment schedules that consisted of 60- to 90-day tours.

"Our Alaska Air National Guard members took on an important mission while in Afghanistan and came to the aid

of those needing help," said Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "This is a rebuilding atmosphere, and Alaskans are successful in Afghanistan because we know how to build strong, unified communities while overcoming rugged terrain and austere conditions."

The Guardsmen, termed the Afghan National Army Embedded Transition Team, left Alaska in September and spent about two months training at Fort Riley, Kan., before they left for Afghanistan.

"We're not just about imparting our military skills while we're in Afghanistan;

our mission is about being a good citizen — sharing what government is and what it means," said Lieutenant Colonel Pete Savage, senior mentor on the Afghan National Army Embedded Transition Team. "We hope to instill ideals and concepts that will eventually help them maintain a cohesive government."

Soldiers on this deployment hail from Anchorage, Eagle River, Chugiak, Wasilla, Palmer, Kenai and Dillingham. They are expected to return to Alaska sometime around August 2009.

This is the second contingent of Alaska Army National Guard members to deploy

to Afghanistan as an Afghan National Army Embedded Transition Team. The first group deployed in April 2007 for about one year. ■

The 176th Wing has been continuously called upon throughout the years to support Operation Enduring Freedom through rescue deployments and through airlift support operations fulfilled by the 144th Airlift Squadron. ■

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From Paradise to Peril ... *Providing Disaster Relief*

By Jeremy Zidek, DHS&EM Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... This August, as Richard Tuiletufuga and his family enjoyed the company of relatives and the warmth of America Samoa's tropical sun, their North Pole home was being ravaged by the most severe flooding to hit the Fairbanks area in the last 40 years.

When the Tuiletufuga family returned to Fairbanks and discovered the serious damage to their home, they immediately contacted the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Disaster Assistance Center located in the Salcha Senior Center. DHS&EM established three DACs in the impacted areas to help flood victims apply for individual assistance under the state's Temporary Housing and Individual Family Grant programs.

"The DAC team inspected our home, made the determination that it was unlivable and got my family into transient housing," Tuiletufuga said. "We had a place to stay in about five hours and that was good for the family."

The flooding began on July 30 when a collection of weather systems met over the northern interior of Alaska and caused heavy rains. Flood waters jumped the banks along the Chena and Tanana rivers in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and then inundated the city of Nenana.

DHS&EM dispatched five emergency management specialists to assist local emergency personnel with the response efforts. Public infrastructure and several hundred homes in Fairbanks, North Pole, Salcha and Nenana were damaged. On Aug. 4, Governor Sarah Palin traveled to Fairbanks, met with local leaders and signed a Declaration of Disaster Emergency.

"Our state emergency management professionals have done an exceptional job evacuating citizens and reducing the impact to homes and businesses," Palin said. "However, much work remains to be done. This Declaration of Disaster Emergency will



Roadway to Waterway. Deep flood waters restricted automobile access in Nenana for more than a week. Many residents resorted to boats and canoes for transportation within the city. Photo: Courtesy of DHS&EM

give local officials and state responders the ability to continue the swift and coordinated response effort that has been taking place."

With the Declaration of Disaster Emergency, DHS&EM activated the Individual Assistance hotline and began taking applications for the Temporary Housing and Individual Family Grant programs.

The Temporary Housing program provides short-term transient housing to people who cannot stay in their homes during the disaster and long-term housing to people with homes that are unlivable. The Temporary Housing program can also help make repairs to a home if those repairs are a cost-effective alternative to temporary housing.

The Individual Family Grant program provides disaster victims with up to \$5,000 for damages to real property, personal property, transportation and medical expenses that are a result of the disaster.

"Our Individual Assistance personnel handled a difficult job in a professional and compassionate manner, and I am proud of the way they served the people of Alaska," said John Madden, DHS&EM director. "The IA program is not intended to make a disaster victim whole, but it can provide for the essential needs of those most affected by the disasters that Alaskans face."

As of early September, DHS&EM received more than 240 individual assistance applications and provided temporary housing to more than 20 households. The grant distribution process is being expedited to help victims repair their homes before freezing winter conditions set in.

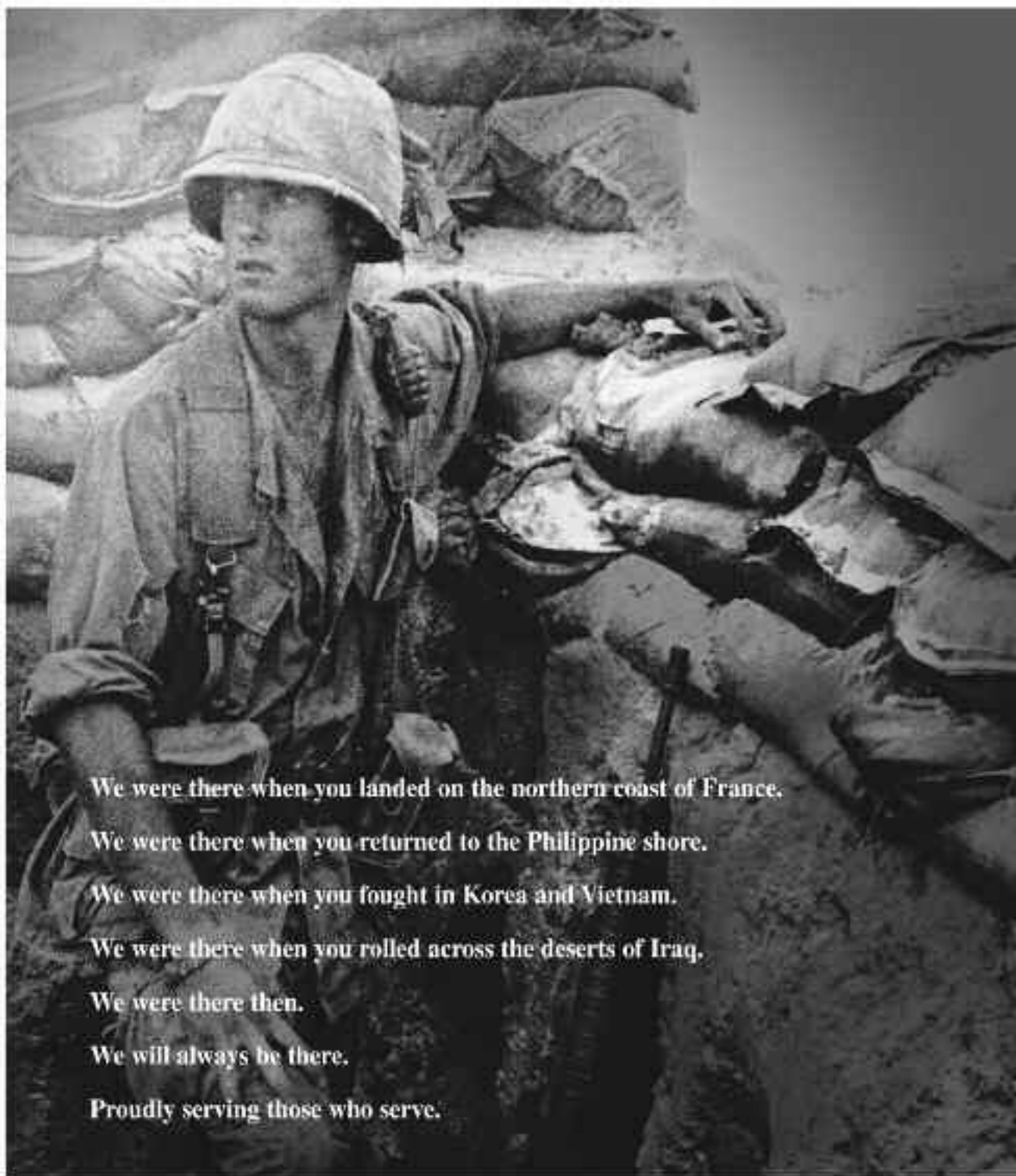
On Sept. 4, with the water, electricity and heat restored, the Tuiletufuga family left temporary housing and returned to their home.

"We still have a lot of work to do," Tuiletufuga said. "But we are back in our home, and that is a big relief." ■



Disaster Declaration. Governor Sarah Palin, center, is joined by local leaders to address flooding concerns in the Fairbanks area and sign the Declaration of Disaster Emergency. From left: Fairbanks Mayor Terry Strle, Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Jim Whitaker, North Pole Mayor Doug Isaacson, Nenana Mayor Jason Mayrand and Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Commissioner Leo von Scheben.

Photo: Courtesy of DHS&EM



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Veterans

Alaska Territorial Guard Members Honored in Point Hope



Story and photo by Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

POINT HOPE, Alaska ... Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, recognized 63 members of the Alaska Territorial Guard for their service during World War II at an official discharge ceremony held in Point Hope in mid-August.

Point Hope residents who served with the Alaska Territorial Guard from 1942 through 1947 were members of a U.S. Army component organized by Alaska Territorial Governor Ernest Gruening in response to attacks by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

Campbell presented Seymour Tuzrolyuke Sr., Alec Melic Sr., Phillip Dexter and Luke Koonook Sr. with their official discharge certificates, Alaska Territorial Guard medals, unit arm patches and commemorative Alaska National Guard Adjutant General challenge coins in honor of their selfless and voluntary service toward the defense of the state.

Along with the four surviving ATG members honored, 59 deceased members were recognized and many of their families were presented certificates on their behalf.

"It has been my honor to finally recognize the more than 6,600 Alaskans who answered the call to defend this state and nation," Campbell said. "We also appreciate the support their families have given them, and we extend our thanks to the families as well."

Throughout the last few years, many of the ATG members, who began their service shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, have been formally discharged and recognized for their service at events held across Alaska.

Although these brave men and women did not go through basic military training, they still faithfully guarded their assigned territory, with little equipment and no pay, until the Alaska Territorial Guard was disbanded in 1947.

"The people of Point Hope have a long history of giving in a time of need, and they gave exceptionally during their service with the Alaska Territorial Guard," Campbell said. "We owe a great deal of appreciation to these heroes, who without hesitation rose to the challenge and served our great state during World War II. They're an inspiration and example to all of us."

In August 2000, service in the ATG was given federal recognition as Public Law 106-259 and under Title 38 – Veterans' Benefits in the U.S. Code.

"It was a privilege to present these discharges to the Alaska Territorial Guard members, but we still have many members who haven't received their official discharges; we would like to see everyone who served with the ATG honored this way," said Jerry Beale, state veterans affairs administrator.

Beale estimates that 5,000 Alaska Territorial Guard members still need to submit paperwork for their service, and they or their family members can do so by filling out an application on the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs Web site. ■

Alaska Women Veterans Coordinator Appointed

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Brigadier General Deborah C. McManus, assistant adjutant general of the Alaska Air National Guard, is now the new Alaska Women Veterans Coordinator and will work to ensure women's issues are fully recognized and addressed.

Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, appointed McManus to the new post on Aug. 27.

"Brigadier General McManus has a proven leadership record and an unwavering dedication to the Guard since she enlisted in the Washington, D.C., Air National Guard in 1981," Campbell said. "She knows what issues are facing Alaska's veterans and women in particular, and she will be an ardent supporter for them."

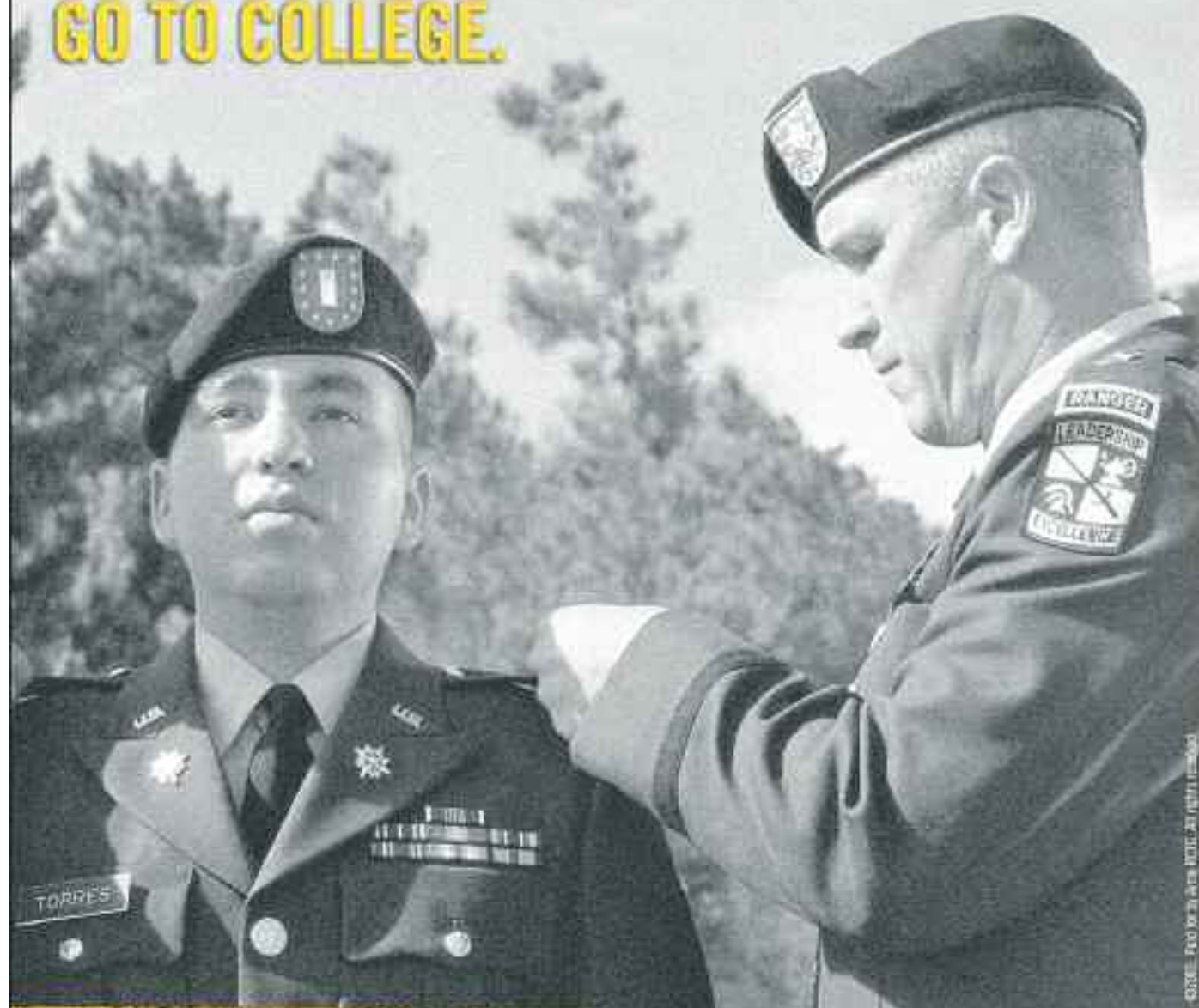
McManus will work with the Alaska Veterans Office to raise awareness and advocate for the nearly 8,000 women members of Alaska's population of 75,000 veterans. She will perform her duties as Alaska Air National Guard commander and the new Women Veterans coordinator for the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs at the Alaska National Guard Headquarters building on Fort Richardson.

"I am honored to be able to serve the women veterans of Alaska and help promote the issues that will best support them," McManus said. "I will use my deployment experience and my years of military service to bring attention to what concerns veterans have here at home."

McManus has served during a variety of overseas deployments to include Operation Northern Watch in Turkey, Operation Southern Watch in Kuwait and most recently, Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005, as the director of operations for strategic communications on the Multi-National Force – Iraq.

McManus resides in Anchorage with her husband, retired Chief Master Sergeant Michael McManus. She has two stepdaughters who also have a history of service with the Alaska Air National Guard. ■

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Missile Defense

Photos by Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



Careful Observations. Stanislaw Komorowski, center, Polish undersecretary of state, and members of his party watch as Soldiers of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion fire direction crew run through an engagement scenario of the ground-based midcourse defense system. During his visit, Komorowski visited facilities that are similar to the proposed interceptor base in Poland.

DEFENDING *the Homeland*



Aerial Test Vehicles. Sergeant Charles Branch, left, and Sergeant Kristian Michael, both military police officers with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, take a break to pose with the raven small unmanned aerial vehicles used during a recent test of the Missile Defense System.



Not Your Average Truck Load. A ground-based interceptor is transported on a strong-back truck on the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely. The MDC is home to the operational arm of the nation's missile defense capability.

A Watchful Eye. Specialist David Kamer, a military police officer with the 49th Missile Defense Battalion, stands guard on the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely.



Air Guardsmen

Provide Search & Rescue Support in Gulf Coast

By Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

KULIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Alaska ... Twenty-six members of the Alaska Air National Guard returned home in September after deploying for more than two weeks in support of relief efforts caused by hurricanes Gustav, Hannah and Ike in the Gulf Coast region.

Responding to a request from the states of Louisiana and Texas, the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing deployed two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and Airmen to support search-and-rescue efforts.

"This mission was a true testament to the training and capabilities of our Alaska Air National Guardsmen," said Governor Sarah Palin. "I was pleased to be able to direct our Alaska National Guardsmen to deploy to the Gulf Coast region and support the citizens of those states in a critical time of need."

The Alaska Air National Guard deployed under the auspices of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a program that allows Guard units to mobilize upon request to render assistance to other states.

"Our Alaska Air National Guardsmen were the perfect fit for the mission," said Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "We perform these missions every day here in Alaska and that's why the governors of Louisiana and Texas requested support from Governor Palin. When you want the best, you ask for the best, and the Alaska Air National Guard is world renowned for having the experience and professionalism to perform in the harshest conditions."

Alaska is one of several state Guard organizations that rendered assistance to the Gustav, Hannah and Ike impact zone.

Members of the 176th Wing flew 22 missions and were awarded 16 saves during their 16-day deployment to the Gulf Coast region. ■



Preparing for Deployment. Alaska Air National Guardsmen from the 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron maneuver an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter onto the loading ramp of a C-17 strategic airlift jet. The helicopter is one of two the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing deployed to the Gulf Coast region to support search-and-rescue operations in the wake of hurricanes Gustav, Hannah and Ike. Photo: Second Lieutenant John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs

Devastation. An aerial view of Galveston, Texas, shows the path of destruction Hurricane Ike left.

Photo: Technical Sergeant Sean Mitchell, 176th Wing



Rescue Refueling. An HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter from the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron refuels over a flooded plain near Galveston, Texas, in mid-September. The Alaska Air National Guard deployed to the Gulf Coast region in September to perform search-and-rescue missions in the wake of hurricanes Gustav, Hannah and Ike. Photo: Technical Sergeant Sean Mitchell, 176th Wing



Hurricane Relief Support. Guardsmen from the 176th Logistics Readiness Squadron maneuver an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter onto the loading ramp of a C-17 strategic airlift jet. The crew of the C-17 Globemaster III was from the wing's 249th Airlift Squadron. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Tim O'Brien, 210th Rescue Squadron

Joint Forces

Ready to Serve



A Mongolian Welcome. A member of Mongolia President Nambaryn Enkhbayar's honor guard performs during the opening ceremony of Exercise Khaan Quest 2008 at Five Hills Training Center in Mongolia.

Photo: Master Sergeant Jules Barklow, 176th Wing Public Affairs

EXERCISE KHAAN QUEST 2008

By Specialist Paizley Ramsey, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

FIVE HILLS TRAINING CENTER, Mongolia ... Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers successfully completed U.N. multilateral peacekeeping training at the Five Hills Training Center, Mongolia, as part of Exercise Khaan Quest 2008.

Exercise Khaan Quest 2008, a peace-support operations training exercise, co-sponsored by the Mongolian Armed Forces and U.S. Army Pacific, involved five multinational platoons, including one comprised of Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers, that participated in standardized U.N. tactical and technical training.

The exercise also involved a humanitarian civil assistance mission, conducted by 11 engineers from the 871st Engineer Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Wailuku, Maui. Soldiers spent 16 days restoring and upgrading a school dormitory in Altonbulaag, a small village about 22 miles from Five Hills Training Center.

The training exercise, first conducted by the U.S. Marine Corps in 2004, is designed to strengthen the capabilities of the U.S. Army and Mongolian Armed Forces in international peace-support operations and to enhance interoperability among the U.S. Army, Mongolian

Armed Forces and other countries in the Pacific region.

"We are very pleased to host Exercise Khaan Quest 2008, and we are looking forward to its continued success in the future," said Mongolia President Nambaryn Enkhbayar during an address at the exercise's opening ceremony.

Training for the five multinational platoons from India, Nepal, Thailand,

Mongolia and the United States consisted of six situational exercises: convoy, patrol, cordon and search, disarmament demobilization and reintegration, food distribution and security checkpoint operations. The U.N. training specification does vary from the U.S. Army standard operating procedures.

"This training is much different than what most of our guys are used to, so they've done well considering they're brand new to this U.N. training style," said Sergeant First Class Stephen Blair, an exercise trainer and member of the Alaska Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry. "I did take note of how well they integrated their past training into this new training."

Ultimately the general sentiment among trainers, participants and senior military leadership was that Exercise Khaan Quest 2008 was a complete success.

"Participating in overseas training is a unique opportunity for both foreign soldiers and Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers, and it's a great opportunity for us to increase our effectiveness in interoperability with our allies," said Command Sergeant Major Gordon Choate, Alaska Army National Guard state command sergeant major.

Exercise Khaan Quest will continue to be a staple in the flourishing relationship between the U.S. Army, the Alaska National Guard and the Mongolian Armed Forces, helping to cement the future of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership program. ■



Convoy Cover. During Exercise Khaan Quest 2008, Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers take cover behind a U.N. vehicle while simulating receiving fire from mock oppositional forces during convoy training certification.

Photo: Specialist Paizley Ramsey, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



Mongolian Armed Forces Showcase

By Lieutenant Colonel Gonchigdorj Nyamdorj,
Mongolian Armed Forces

The multi-national peacekeeping exercise Khaan Quest opens a new chapter in the history of the Mongolian Armed Forces. Many foreign contingents have participated in the exercise since 2006. Prior to that time, Mongolian and Russian troops trained in joint field exercises.

Participating in such exercises has prepared personnel to successfully carry out their duties during Operation Iraqi Freedom and peacekeeping missions in countries such as Sierra Leone. During interviews with soldiers, the participants invariably credited the exercise as a confidence builder for their missions abroad.

Unit commanders routinely deploy recent military institute and noncommissioned officer school graduates to this exercise. The annual peacekeeping exercise Khaan Quest provides graduates with an opportunity to gain valuable experiences on the battlefield. Graduates, who aspire to become UN peacekeepers, are always keen to learn from experienced instructors who impart to them the tenets of keeping the peace.

Exercise Khaan Quest has become the showcase of our armed forces. It presents a good opportunity to improve the Mongolian Armed Forces' peacekeeping capabilities, while at the same time reaching the goal of establishing a standing peace support force. ■

Weapons Familiarization. Alaska Army National Guard Private First Class Louis Grimaldi, from Kenai, checks the target as a Mongolian Armed Forces soldier fires the squad automatic weapon machine gun at the Five Hills Training Center, Mongolia, during Exercise Khaan Quest 2008. Photo: Specialist Paizley Ramsey, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

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Adjutant General Receives Third Star

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Before a formation of Alaska Air and Army National Guard members, the Alaska National Guard's top leader was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General in early September.

Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, received his third star, signifying Governor Sarah Palin's support of the Guard and her commitment to reinforcing the cooperation between federal and state military assets.

Palin took the opportunity to promote Campbell ahead of any pending emergency that may occur with the upcoming fall storm season.

"This is about Alaskans serving Alaskans. The promotion is a statement that the Alaska National Guard is the state military force responsible for responding to state issues, at the direction of the Governor," Palin said. "The decision to promote the Adjutant General to Lieutenant General is based on a fundamental states'-rights stance, for which Alaska has a strong historical position."

This issue gained momentum with governors following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, when the Department of Defense pushed a change in federal law that authorized the President of the United States to mobilize National Guard members to federal service in response to emergencies, without the consent of governors.

The National Governors Association and the Adjutants General Association of the United States were unanimously opposed to this change, and the following year Congress reversed the law. Currently, Alaska Statutes were changed to permit the governor to promote the adjutant general to the state rank of Lieutenant General specifically for state service.

Campbell was pinned with his third star by his daughter Amanda Rauckhorst and wife, Anne Marie Campbell. Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell was also in attendance and spoke on behalf of Palin about the importance of the Alaska National Guard in securing the state.

"The action of promoting the adjutant general to lieutenant general (Alaska) in one way serves to strengthen the concept

that the federal and state forces are co-equal partners in providing support to the state of Alaska," Campbell said. "It is also a positive statement by Governor Palin that the adjutant general, as a senior state official and cabinet member of a state entity, correctly relates to the senior appointed federal officials in Alaska, when supporting the citizens of this great state."

Campbell will only wear the rank of lieutenant general when he is in service to the state. His federal rank will remain major general. This state promotion carries no added financial benefit to Campbell. When serving in state status, the adjutant general receives commissioner pay and benefits. When serving in active



A Family Affair. Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, was pinned with his third star by his daughter Amanda Rauckhorst, left, and wife, Anne Marie Campbell, during a promotion ceremony held for him in front of the National Guard headquarters on Camp Denali. Photo: Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

duty status (federal), the adjutant general is paid under the federally recognized rank of major general.

Campbell now joins the rank of the adjutant general from the Texas National Guard, which currently has a lieutenant general as its top officer. Georgia and Maryland have also had adjutants general as lieutenants general in the past. ■

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UNITED CONCORDIA

EDUCATION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

By First Lieutenant Les Poletzky,
Education Services Officer

New procedures are in place that makes it easier for Guard members to pursue higher learning at the University of Alaska Multi-Campus System.

The first improvement to the procedure is that the entire Tuition Scholarship Program process is now handled electronically. This means no need for paper applications. This paperless process makes it much easier to apply for funding under the Tuition Scholarship Program because Guard members can now directly submit requests for inclusion in the program by contacting their education representatives at Eielson Air Force Base, Kulis Air National Guard Base and Fort Richardson/Camp Denali via e-mail, telephone or in person.

This method is a tremendous step in the right direction from previous years when standing in lines and exchanging paper applications was necessary before each semester.

The second improvement is that the dollar amount each student is eligible to receive under the Reimbursement Fund has doubled. Now eligible Guard members can receive up to \$2,000 in reimbursements for credit-yielding courses taken at schools in Alaska other than the University of Alaska system. The reimbursement for license or certificate programs in Alaska has increased to \$1,000.

A new added benefit for spouses and dependants is also in the works. Beginning with the Spring 2009 semester, the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks will offer limited tuition waivers to spouses and dependants of Guard members.

Eielson Air Force Base, Kulis Air National Guard Base and the Alaska National Guard Headquarters on Fort Richardson all have education representatives to help Guard members apply for education benefits. They are on hand to answer all questions and help determine a member's eligibility. Remember, registration for the Spring 2009 semester by Alaska National Guard members for the University of Alaska multi-campus system will begin on Nov. 1. Contact your education representatives for details.

EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES:

Eielson, Senior Master Sergeant Rebecca Donovan
377-8748 or rebecca.donovan@akeiel.ang.af.mil

Kulis, Master Sergeant Tracy Glaze
249-1371 or wg.training@akanch.ang.af.mil

Fort Richardson, First Lieutenant Les Poletzky
428-6477 or les.poletzky@us.army.mil



Education

Alaska Military Youth Academy: Our Future Leaders

By Cadet Randy Romeo, Alaska Military Youth Academy 2008-02 graduate



A Top Performer. Alaska Military Youth Academy Cadet Joshua Stevens is honored with the Physical Fitness Award for Class 2008-02 and presented with a diploma from Commandant Vikki Garner Aug. 29 at the Alaska Center for Performing Arts in Anchorage. As the Physical Fitness Award recipient Stevens excelled in the Presidential Physical Fitness Program and consistently participated in the Alaska Military Youth Academy fitness program.

Photo: Charlee's Photography

CAMP CARROLL,

Alaska ... Twice a year the Alaska Military Youth Academy ChalleNGe program takes hundreds of at risk youth and changes them from confused adolescents with no sense of purpose or direction, and turns them into mature, hardworking young adults, trained to a military-like standard.

"The dedicated staff goes above and beyond to help each and every cadet succeed," said Stanley Savage, AMYA 3rd Platoon leader. "The cadets are eager to become something great, something remarkable, and this is where they can do that."

It takes about six months to complete the program and it's what many teenagers call the hardest high school around, with days beginning at 5 a.m. and ending 16 hours later at lights out.

"It's by no means easy; it is both mentally and physically demanding for each of the cadets to make a good change and return to society on the right path. This experience is a crucial changing point in their lives," said John Honore, AMYA 3rd Platoon team leader.

Kids at all education levels from 16-18 years of age, enter the Academy out of shape and with little to no motivation. In only six months, AMYA turns them into physically fit, disciplined and mentally tough productive citizens, able to pass the high school qualification test and make something of their future.

"I know firsthand the negative effects a young person's upbringing can have on his or her life," said Prissilla Maddox, 4th Platoon team leader. "I was given my second chance to become a good person by the Alaska Military Youth Academy, and although I didn't completely change in six months, I was given all the tools I needed to deal with things differently. By using the tools the Academy taught me, I was able to break the chain of my negative environment."

Maddox graduated from AMYA at age 16, and today, she's a Soldier in the Alaska Army National Guard and an AMYA team leader.

But turning society's most questionable of the next generation into respectable, young adults in such a short period of time is not an easy task.

“Just look around – gang violence, underage sex, drugs and violence are all steadily on the rise, and it’s our youth that are adding to the numbers,” said Clifford Parker, AMYA 3rd Platoon team leader. “The ChalleNGe program takes teenagers who are in danger of not graduating high school and helps them get a GED or high school diploma, instills morals, gives them all the tools they need for success.”

Funded 80 percent by the Army National Guard and 20 percent by the state, the AMYA ChalleNGe program is entirely free to those who accept the challenge.

From six months of room and board to the education, medical and counseling services, the only thing expected from the youth is to follow the rules and do their best.

“The success rate seems to be outstanding among all the cadets who graduate the program,” Parker said. “There is a 12-month period after they graduate in which they keep in monthly contact with the Academy, and there is an extremely high rate of them being successful in their lives after the Academy.” ■



Appreciation of Service. In honor of their retirement, Alaska Military Youth Academy director, Craig Christensen presents Alaska state flags to AMYA staff members Vickie Jeffreys and Joe Alecknavage Aug. 29 at the Alaska Center for Performing Arts in downtown Anchorage. Photo: Charlee's Photography



Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve



New ESGR Alaska Field Chairman Named

By Jamie Abordonado, ESGR

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... James G. Rebholz, national chairman of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, appointed former Anchorage Mayor George Wuerch as chairman of the Alaska Committee for ESGR.

The oath of office was administered to Wuerch by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas G. Hall, in Arlington, Va. Wuerch succeeds Michael Machulsky who completed six years of distinguished service as the field chairman of the Alaska Committee.

Wuerch, a military retiree, is well-known throughout the state, particularly in the Anchorage area. He has a history of supporting the military.

“I am honored by this opportunity to lead the volunteers serving in the Alaska committee who unselfishly give their time helping employers and members of the National Guard and Reserve understand their rights and obligations under federal and state laws,” Wuerch said. “I am proud to say many Alaska employers go above and beyond in support of their employees who are National Guard or Reserve members by supporting them with pay differential and the extension of employee benefits coverage during mobilizations.”

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972. The mission of ESGR is to gain and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflicts through mediation. ■

176th Wing Commander Retires

This letter was written to the Airmen of the 176th Wing

On Jan. 22, 2005, I was given the honor of taking command of the 176th Wing. Of course, it was a proud and joyous moment for me and Jacque. But later that night, after all the congratulatory handshakes were over and we had sipped the last glass of wine, I asked Jacque a poignant question, "What have I just gotten myself into?"

I have lived with a concept since college, simply stated, "Everything rises and falls on leadership." That doesn't mean that the person at the top is responsible for all the success, to me it means that without leadership at every level of an organization, then that organization will not be effective within the sector it operates. So, it has been my goal, and hopefully my practice, to let leaders at each level have the freedom to demonstrate their capabilities and to lead without my interference.

Over the past three and a half years, the 176th Wing has demonstrated its patriotism, professionalism and mission preparedness like no other unit in the Air National Guard. Everyone within the Wing has contributed to the excellent record of mission accomplishment and to the national accolades this Wing has garnered. Without that leadership at every level, the things that you have accomplished would not have happened. Not just leadership by flight or squadron commanders, but leadership by section supervisors, line supervisors and those five level Airmen that make certain they perform the best at their specialty every day of the week.

The answer to the question I asked my wife is simple: I accepted the most challenging but rewarding job of my 31 year military career. I was given the opportunity to stand at the helm of an organization that didn't need large rudder corrections or course changes. I was handed an organization of knowledgeable, dedicated, capable individuals that were willing and proud to protect and defend their nation and state. I had the opportunity to lead not just professional, patriotic Airmen, but most importantly, personable individuals that care for and love their families, friends and neighbors.

Throughout my career, leaving one position for the next opportunity has always made me reflect upon what was accomplished during my tenure. During the past three years I have asked you to perform and you did; I asked you to rise to the challenge and you soared above it. My reflection now is bitter-sweet because I must leave the Airmen that make this Wing so great, but it is you that I am so proud to have known and will miss and remember until my dying day.

So long 176th Wing. Jacque and I will always cherish our time with you and the memories we have created. You are truly the best of the best.

Brigadier General Tony Hart

Assistant Adjutant General for Space and Missile Defense Retires



Retirement Honors. Lieutenant General (Alaska) Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, left, and Brigadier General Craig Christensen, assistant adjutant general for the 49th Space and Missile Defense Battalion, right, look on as Sergeant Major Gordon Choate, Alaska National Guard state command sergeant major, prepares Christensen's general officer flag for encasement. Christensen retired in September after 36 years of service in the Alaska Army National Guard. Photo: Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion

By Specialist Margaret J. Moonin, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The assistant adjutant general of the 49th Space and Missile Defense Battalion, Brigadier General Craig Christensen, was honored for his 36 years of dedication and selfless service to the Alaska Army National Guard in a retirement ceremony held in early September.

Christensen joined the Alaska Army National Guard in 1972, and since that time has served in numerous roles, namely as the commander of 5th Battalion (Scout), 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard chief of staff, Alaska Army National Guard deputy commander, assistant inspector general and 207th Infantry Group (Scout) commander.

During his years of service, Christensen earned several military awards and ribbons that include three Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Alaska Commendation Medal and the Alaska Domestic Emergency Ribbon.

"I joined the service as a private and 36 years later, I am privileged to have served," Christensen said.

In a civilian capacity, Christensen currently serves as the director of the Alaska Military Youth Academy for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. ■



Who We Are...

What is Alaska's best kept secret?

Kera Spaulding

Family Assistance Specialist



"Alaska's best kept secret is its cultural diversity. Many people don't realize that it's a melting pot of ideals, cultures and economic statuses."

Sergeant Jack Carlson III

49th Missile Defense Battalion



"The vast uninhabited area of the Interior; it allows you to be free of neighbors and take in the state's natural beauty."

First Lieutenant Sarah Payeur

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade



"I think Alaska's best kept secret is that you can go snow machining on glaciers as a summer vacation and go skiing in May."

Technical Sergeant Christopher Balsewicz

168th Air Refueling Wing



"Fishing for the biggest king salmon one day, then the biggest halibut the next, then hunting for the biggest moose in September. Plus, you have the best scenery in the country."

Laura Baker

DMVA Administrative Services Manager



"Now if I told you the best kept secret about Alaska, it wouldn't be a secret anymore!"



Family Support

Family Programs Adds New Office Location

By Kimberly Leary, Family Programs

The Alaska National Guard Family Programs office would like to remind you that we are here to help with all your resource and referral needs.

Our primary services include crisis referral, TRICARE and military benefits information, emergency financial assistance, legal information, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, mobilization and deployment trainings, as well as support to the local Family Readiness Groups.

Family Programs is also proud to announce the grand opening of our newest Family Assistance Center location: the Mat-Su Valley. Located within the Alcantra Armory, this office is staffed by Lori Smith.

Our other office locations include Anchorage, Juneau, Bethel, Nome, Fairbanks, Kulis Air National Guard Base and Eielson Air Force Base. As always, we are a phone call away if you need any assistance. You can reach us at (907) 428-6663 within the Anchorage area or toll free at (888) 917-3608 outside of the Anchorage calling area. ■

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 SSgt Don O. Collins213th SWS
 SSgt Billy G. Brown Jr.213th SWS
 SSgt Clint J. Kerr168th AMXS
 Maj Adria P. Zuccaro168th ARW
 SMSgt Paul E. Nunemann168th OSF
 SrA Harvey Campbell II176th OSF
 TSgt Ray Albeza176th SFS
 TSgt Paul Macy176th MXS

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TSgt Cecil Dickerson176th LRS
 MSgt Kaprice Zuke176th WG
 MSgt Robert Carte210th RQS
 SMSgt Douglas Echternacht144th AS
 Lt Kevin Asher210th RQS
 Capt Keenan Zerkel210th RQS
 Capt Matthew Calabro210th RQS
 Capt Glenn L. Muilenburg176th AMXS
 Maj Theodore McGovern176th WG

Army Achievement Medal



SSG Mark MillerJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SFC Kelly RepnowJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SPC Joseph Sallaffie2nd Bn
 PV2 Benjamin Gruver207th Avn
 SSG Elaine JacksonR&R
 SPC Jesse Spillman207th Bde
 SFC Terry SeverinJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SGT Brandee EubanksJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SGT Brian Norris207th Bde
 SGT Cynthia Hatzis207th Bde
 SSG Nicholas Dutton207th Bde

Air Force Achievement Medal



Maj Keith M. Grimes213th SWS
 1Lt Eric L. Vantrease213th SWS
 SMSgt Danielle M. St. Laurent168th MDG
 MSgt Barbara M. Maglaqui168th MDG
 MSgt Timothy J. Vanderhoff168th AMXS
 MSgt Kelly R. Merrell213th SWS
 TSgt Bryan E. McPherson213th SWS
 TSgt Whitney J. Smith213th SWS
 SSgt Carleas L. Parsons213th SWS
 SrA Juliette E. Williams168th OSF
 MSgt Chad E. Parsons213th SWS
 TSgt Andrew R. Webster213th SWS
 SSgt DeWayne Parker176th MXS
 SrA Sara HowardJFHQ-AK (Air)
 SrA Chachee Petersen176th MXS
 SSgt Misa Ruiz176th MSF
 SSgt Jovon James211th RQS
 TSgt Zandra Teodosio176th MSF
 TSgt Chelsea Johnson176th LRS

MSgt Tracy Glaze176th MSF
 MSgt Ronnie Valdez176th OG
 SMSgt Theodore Poplarchik144th AS
 Capt Shad Schoppert176th CES

Army Good Conduct Medal



SSG Robert Carson49th MDB
 SGT Javier Arreguin49th MDB
 SSG Richard Mathieson49th MDB
 SSG Brian Warren49th MDB
 SFC John Robinson49th MDB
 SFC Stephan Young49th MDB
 SGT Luke Sinclair49th MDB
 SPC Eric Rose49th MDB
 SPC Tracy Tipton49th MDB
 SPC Roy Tomasch49th MDB
 SSG Melissa Zaronas49th MDB
 SGT Robert Etheridge49th MDB
 SGT Lewis Greer49th MDB
 SGT Billy Whorf49th MDB
 SGT Joseph Brokus49th MDB
 SGT Douglas Fry49th MDB
 SGT Derrick Holmes49th MDB
 SFC Kevin McGaha49th MDB
 SGT Jacob Ostergard49th MDB
 SGT Nicholas Oswalt49th MDB
 SPC William Smith49th MDB
 SGT Anthony Garrett49th MDB
 SGT Matthew Martin49th MDB
 SGT Kenneth Nydam49th MDB
 SGT Michael Piccirillo49th MDB
 SGT Juan Coronel49th MDB
 SGT Jeremy Curtis49th MDB
 SGT Virgil Klein49th MDB
 SGT Tommy Tanner49th MDB
 SPC James Bond49th MDB
 SGT Paul Freeman49th MDB
 SGT Karen Hurst49th MDB
 SGT Dale Kaiser49th MDB
 SGT James Reaves49th MDB
 SGT Charles Bynum49th MDB
 SSG Jose Peralta49th MDB
 SGT Benjamin Guritz49th MDB
 SGT Larry Martin49th MDB
 SGT Casey Smith49th MDB

SGT Travis Amik49th MDB
 SPC Jason Bowman49th MDB
 SPC Paul Brown49th MDB
 SGT Samantha Dehling49th MDB
 SGT Archie Yabut49th MDB
 SSG Jonathan Shivel49th MDB
 SGT Kristian Michael49th MDB
 SPC Stephen Bearor49th MDB
 SSG Shawn Aubrecht49th MDB
 SGT Kevin Nelson49th MDB

Alaska Legion of Merit Medal



LTC Malcolm Pressley297th Spt Bn
 CW4 Bruce Perry207th Avn

Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



SSG Vernon Metcalfe3rd Bn
 SGT Jonah Lomack1st Bn
 MSG Manuel Lopez297th Spt Bn
 SFC James Gaiser297th Spt Bn

Alaska Commendation Medal



SPC Brent Clancy3rd Bn
 SSG Dempsey Woods1st Bn
 SSG Reginald Bright1st Bn



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PROMOTIONS

Lieutenant Colonel

Joseph J. Kley211th RQS
John R. Oberst176th ACS
Darrin E. Slaten210th RQS
Jerrold A. Wangberg176th ACS
Mark B. Welborn176th OG
William J. KupchinDet 1, 210th RQS
Charles D. Fitzgerald249th AS
John McShaneJFHQ-AK (Army)

Major

Michael R. Jordan176th WG
Sheila A. Lang176th OSF
Kevin T. Clifford176th ACS
Matthew M. Frieze176th WG
Benjamin C. Nealy249th AS
Mark Binggeli297th Spt Bn
Richard Doering1st Bn
Jeffery Lunsford207th Bde

Captain

Andre L. Morgan176th MSF
John C. Smith144th AS

First Lieutenant

Jason Delange49th MDB

Walter Hotchhill3rd Bn
Peter Pagni207th Avn

Second Lieutenant

Benjamin J. Leonard210th RQS

Chief Warrant Officer Two

Jeffrey ArnoldJFHQ-AK (Army)

Chief Warrant Officer Three

David HarmesJFHQ-AK (Army)

Sergeant Major

Bradford Quigley49th MDB
Edward Antonio3rd Bn
Warren JohnsonDet 54

Chief Master Sergeant

Jerome L. Hanson168th MOF
Paul E. Nunemann168th ARS
Shannon L. Stalder168th LRS

Senior Master Sergeant

Tina A. Rabjohns168th CF
Keith J. Henrys168th ARS
William B. Yockell Jr.176th WG

Sergeant First Class

William Schultz1st Bn
William Gallagher49th MDB
Brent BartlettJFHQ-AK (Army)
Ken Felchle3rd Bn
Randall Lemieux3rd Bn

Master Sergeant (E-7)

Jason C. Rode213th SWS
Rob R. Regan168th MXS
Diminian P. Chagnon168th CF
Lana R. Hebert168th LRS
Paul C. Fruend176th WG
Mary J. Younkins144th AS
Andrew L. Butz212th RQS
David W. Johnson212th RQS
Robert M. Schnell212th RQS
Chad D. Moore212th RQS
Richard E. Rhea Jr.176th SFS
Ronald J. Sekula176th ACS
Marsali A. Donaldson176th ACS
David K. Brown176th CES

Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Nicholas Boggs3rd Bn
William Powell207th Avn
Corwin Viglione207th Avn
Kenneth Cross297th Spt
Tyson Drew103rd CST
Sherman Ellington49th MDB
Melkart Hawi103rd CST
Jeffery Tipton49th MDB
William Zeffery207th Avn
John Augustine207th Avn
Jerrick LienR&R
Eric Rothery207th Avn
Thomas Hogland207th Avn
Elejahorse Beronilla207th Avn
Martin JohnsonJFHQ-AK (Army)

Technical Sergeant

William M. Freyling213th SWS
Steven K. Havens213th SWS
Michael R. Reyor213th SWS
Adam S. Benson168th MOF
Scott A. Murrah168th MXS
Charles E. Forquer213th SWS
Carrie A. Curtis176th ACS
Jeremy D. Akers176th MXS
Maria V. Torres176th MDG
David M. Pepper176th SFS
William R. Hinman176th SFS
Arthur L. Koenig176th LRS
Jose A. Abdelnoor176th LRS
Amanda B. Boswell176th MDG
David A. Alborn211th RQS
Sherdean S. Brisendine176th MSF
Shane M. Jolly176th MXS
Robert V. Dubinsky176th MXS

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Sergeant

Vanessa PetersonMed Det
 Deptmer Ashley3rd Bn
 Paul Demmert3rd Bn
 Seth Sanford207th Avn
 Joleen Simeonoff207th Avn
 Nicholas Boggs3rd Bn
 William Powell207th Avn
 Scott Bailey207th Avn
 Jared Baty297th Spt Bn
 Stephen Bearor49th MDB
 Gabriel Blender207th Avn
 Charles Branch II49th MDB
 Anthony Cripps49th MDB
 Lydia Edwards297th Spt Bn
 Jason Flowers49th GMD
 Murray Harrison49th GMD
 Matthew Holtschlag207th Avn
 Jonathan Hotchkiss49th MDB
 Warren JohnsonDet 54
 Daniel Morse49th MDB
 Stephanie Oates49th MDB
 Joseph Pentland49th MDB
 Sharon Queenie297th Spt Bn
 Martin Shockey297th Spt Bn
 Christopher Utkin297th Spt Bn
 Edward Antonio3rd Bn
 Warren JohnsonDet 54
 Robert Lancaster3rd Bn
 Michelle Larose207th Avn
 Nicholas Mikos207th Avn
 Tauter Pearce3rd Bn
 Jessica Ramirez207th Bde
 John Augustine207th Avn
 Brandee EubanksJFHQ-AK (Army)

Staff Sergeant

Crystal R. White168th ARW
 Jacob T. Parker168th MXS
 Charles A. Raabe168th MXS
 Shane R. Lowe168th MXS
 Phillip G. Newton168th MXS
 David Tyssedal168th AMXS
 Leslie E. Sieverkropp176th MXS
 Chachee M. Petersen176th MXS
 Richard A. Dougherty176th MXS
 Christopher J. Brunner144th AS
 Carter N. Cole176th CES
 Mia N. Carson176th CES
 Kenneth R.J. Morris176th SFS
 Lehman D. Tolliver176th MXS
 Gina C. Ritchie176th MDG
 Christopher L. Tidwell176th MXS

RETIREMENTS

Col John O. Griffin168th ARW
 MSgt Charles M. Whitfield168th MOF
 Lt Col Troy R. Dunn168th ARS
 CMSgt Todd A. Cook168th ARS
 CMSgt Stephen C. Fuller168th ARW
 CMSgt Laura A. Buck168th MDG
 TSgt Mark D. Young168th MOF
 Laura Kelm176th WG
 Allan J. Jackson176th SVC
 Steven Kreinbrink176th MOF
 John Jacobs176th OG
 Eugene Burke176th MXS
 Tammy E. KimballJFHQ-AK (Air)
 Robert J. Fulin176th ACS



New 176th Wing Commander. Colonel Chuck Foster, right, accepts the command flag of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing, from Brigadier General Deborah McManus, assistant adjutant general, Alaska Air National Guard, at a change of command ceremony held at Kulis Air National Guard Base in July. Foster, a former rescue helicopter pilot, took over command of the 176th Wing from Brigadier General Tony Hart, who officially retired in September. Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

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It's the 52nd anniversary of Operation Santa Claus. This year Santa and his elves will be visiting:

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Levi Oyster
Gina Ritchie
Kristopher Abel
Robert Ortolano
Daniel Kozak
Michael Eldridge
Spellman Warner
Krista Staff
Lehman Tolliver
James Harris
Ryan Jewett
Anthony Fletes
Beauregard Loggins
Grant Heath
John Jordan
John Stone
John Teamer
John Anaver
Douglas Simpson
Thomas Berry
Brittany Shea
Chase Carrier
Stephanie Carrier
Timothy Magna
Duane Griffith
Megan Scott
Justin Orenich
Christopher Uriarte
Robert Brumby
Mary Lacy
Braxton Smith
Gregory Keffer
Jon Bezdecny
Cassandra Aglietti
Abigail Hopkins
Henry Estrada
Whitney Mandt
James Hughes
Catherine Driggs
Robert White
Tristan Maxwell
Zacharie Abair
Jason Collins
Dean Diana
Thomas Murphy
John McAleavey
Mandy Weidig
Nicholas Camona
Jason Engle
Zachary Reinhardt
Steven Fernandez
Joshua Dunn
Khalilah Hayward

168th Air Refueling Wing

Clinton Fox
Joshua Langfield
Elizabeth Johnson
Tab Key
Tracy Yaeger
Nathan Burrows
Lee Dockery
Rebecca Scherich
Shawn Bush
Raymond Kelley
Kevin Foster
Adam Kokx
William Lawson
Sharon Ehasz
Lewis Williams
Jennifer Beckley
Joseph Brokus
Danielle Vosburgh
Shelly Lutrell
Calvin Jaynes
Charles Hamby
Amy Wilkins
Shaundra Address
Andrea Valentine
Jacqueline Berard
Aaron Hague
Phillip Bridges

207th Infantry

Jacob Lomonaco
Josiah Smith
Daniel Potter
Tyler Abair
Emosi Passi
Kayla George
Brandon Jones
William Bell

297th Infantry

Brian Cade
James Washington
Zachariah Riste-Plosay
Gerald Combs
Julianne Franklin
Sonny Jones
Aaron Alexie
Erik Bolhen-Murphy
George Lochner
Kevin Lewis
Kristopher Weaver
Autumn Worthington
Victoria Byrum
Harmanjot Guglani

207th Aviation

Caitlin Mannion
Logan Lanni



Family Enlistment. Retired Colonel Dave Lowell, former director of operations for the Alaska Air National Guard, guides his daughter, Whitney Mandt, through the Oath of Enlistment at Kulis Air National Guard Base in July. Mandt enlisted in the Alaska Air National Guard as a member of the 176th Wing's Security Forces Squadron, and Lowell retired from military service in October. Mandt gave her reasons for enlisting as (a) the educational benefits and (b) the opportunity to fire grenade launchers. "She's got a lot of fire in her," Lowell said with a smile.

Photo: Second Lieutenant John Callahan, 176th Wing Public Affairs

Jeffrey Grey
Bradley Jonas
Wayne Willis

Kristian Berg
Caleb Henry
Weston Holland

297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade

Charles Cessnum
Christopher Quirk

297th Support Battalion

Gregory Jackson
Jennifer Jaravata

Warriors Training Schedule

Here are the inactive training dates for most Alaska Army and Air National Guard units. All dates are subject to change.

	Oct. 2008	Nov. 2008	Dec. 2008	Jan. 2009
Alaska National Guard				
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	4-5	1-2	6-7	10-11
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	18-19	14-16	6-7	9-11
Alaska Army National Guard				
297th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade	18-19	15-16	6-7	9-11
38th Troop Command	18-19	14-16	6-7	9-11
1/207th Aviation Regiment	17-19	14-16	5-7	9-11
Alaska Air National Guard				
168th Air Refueling Wing	4-5	1-2	6-7	10-11
176th Wing	4-5	1-2	6-7	10-11
Alaska State Defense Force				
Headquarters	18-19	15-16	20-21	17-18

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